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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:33:49 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

April 09, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1728 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: APER, AFIN, AMGT
Captions: None
Subject: URGENT NEED FOR FSN HEALTH INSURANCE, UAE
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01728

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: DCM
INFO: ADM ECON AMB
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INFO: PER

DISSEMINATION: DCM
CHARGE: ICAS

APPROVED: AMB:MAHBA
DRAFTED: ADM:ABARKLEY
CLEARED: DCM:RALBRIGHT; HR:DTHOMAS; ECON:TWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI234
RR RUEHC RUEHDI
DE RUEHAD #1728 0991309
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 091309Z APR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9350
INFO RUEHDI/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3024

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001728

SIPDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR TO HR/OE DOUG FRANK; NEA/SA/EX BILL HUDSON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [APER](#) [AFIN](#) [AMGT](#)
SUBJECT: URGENT NEED FOR FSN HEALTH INSURANCE, UAE

THE LEVEL OF HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE UAE GOVERNMENT TO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (WHO COMPRISE 100 PERCENT OF OUR FSN STAFF) HAS DIMINISHED SO RAPIDLY IN THE PAST MONTHS THAT THE NEED FOR A HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR OUR STAFF HAS NOW BECOME URGENT.

CALLS TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) REVEAL THAT NOT EVEN THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL AIDE CAN EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HEALTH CARD. ONE EMPLOYEE IS CHARGED AED 20 FOR TWO INOCULATIONS AND A CONSULTATION. ANOTHER IS CHARGED AED 200 TO SET A BROKEN ARM. ANOTHER IS CHARGED FULL COST FOR AN MRI AND A CAT SCAN (RUNNING INTO THE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS). LINES AT THE ONLY HOSPITALS APPROVED FOR USE WITH THE

CARD ARE NOTORIOUS; THE WAIT IS USUALLY SEVERAL HOURS. EMPLOYEES WAIT TWO MONTHS FOR ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS AND NOT-SO-ROUTINE CHECKS.

THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR EXPATRIATES IS IN CHAOS. WE SEE PRESS PIECES THAT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR PLANS TO IMPLEMENT MANDATORY PRIVATE INSURANCE FOR ALL EXPATRIATES BY MAKING ISSUANCE OF A LABOR PERMIT CONTINGENT ON PROOF OF SUCH. BUT WE DO NOT EXPECT RAPID PROGRESS, BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING PRIVATE INSURANCE ON ALL COMPANIES. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE UAE LABOR FORCE IS EXPATRIATE.

THE ONLY CLEAR TREND IS THE RAPID UNDERMINING OF THE BENEFITS OFFERED BY THE UAE GOVERNMENT. POST EXPECTS TO SUBMIT THE UPDATED INSURANCE COMPANY SURVEY (THREE COMPANIES) IN TWO WEEKS. I WOULD APPRECIATE A COMMITMENT BY HR/OE AND NEA/SA/EX TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY ON THIS ISSUE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND BEST REGARDS.

WAHBA